

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kenji SASAKI et al. **Confirmation No: 5026**
Appl. No. : 10/539,756 Group Art Unit: 1615
(National Stage of PCT/JP2003/016362)
I. A. Filed : December 19, 2003 Examiner: Anne M. Gussow
For : METHOD FOR PROTECTING THIOL GROUP OF PROTEIN

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Recordation Services
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed December 16, 2008 Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record in view of the following amendments and remarks. Inasmuch as the Office Action sets a three-month shortened statutory period for response, to expire on March 16, 2009, this response is timely filed and a Request for Extension of Time should not be necessary. However, if the Patent and Trademark Office should deem an extension of time to be necessary, the undersigned authorizes the charge of any necessary fee to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extension and/or claim fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Amendments to the Claims are shown in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 6.